

CENSUS OF THE TERRITORY OF KANSAS—ESTIMATE FOR.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate for an appropriation for taking the census of the people of the Territory of Kansas, with a view to its admission into the Union as a State.

FEBRUARY 15, 1859.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
February 14, 1859.

SIR: In pursuance of the recommendation contained in the annual message of the President, I have the honor to ask that an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) be made for the purpose of taking a census of the people of the Territory of Kansas, with a view to its admission into the Union as a State.

In carrying out the direction of Congress regarding the census of Minnesota, under the act of February 26, 1857, this department, in the absence of any indication as to the amount of compensation to be allowed to those employed upon it, felt constrained to adhere to the rates fixed by the general census law of 1850, and so instructed the marshal previous to the commencement of the work. During its progress, however, it was found that the amounts which would be thus paid to the officers would be altogether inadequate as compensation for the services which were required of them. Under these circumstances, Congress allowed to these officers the same rate of increase over the pay originally fixed as, under the act of August 30, 1850, was given by the department to those taking the Seventh Census in certain of the Territories, which was one hundred per cent.

It is believed that the same circumstances which rendered this allowance in the case of the Minnesota census an act of mere justice would make a like discrimination in favor of those who may be charged with the duty of taking a census of the inhabitants of Kansas eminently proper. The duties connected with these enumerations of

the people in our sparsely inhabited Territories involve difficulties and expenses which are not met with in the older and more densely populated sections of the country.

For these reasons, I have adopted as the basis of the present estimate the allowance made for taking the census of Minnesota. But yet it will be impossible for the department to fix this rate unless Congress shall specially authorize it, as was done in that case by the act of June 2, 1858.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. THOMPSON,
Secretary.

Hon. JAMES L. ORR,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.